

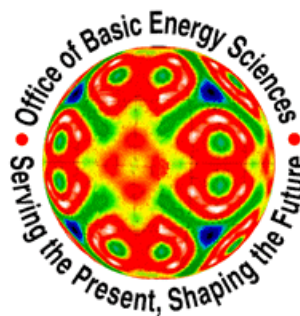
# **Final Environmental Assessment for Construction and Operation of The Molecular Foundry**

At  
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For the U. S. Department of Energy  
Office of Science  
Office of Basic Energy Sciences (SC-10)

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# PREFACE

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The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requires that Federal agencies consider the environmental consequences of their proposed actions before decisions are made. In complying with NEPA, the U.S. Department of Energy follows the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR ] 1500 through 1508) and Department of Energy's (DOE) own NEPA implementing procedures (10 CFR 1021). The purpose of an Environmental Assessment (EA) is to provide Federal decision-makers with sufficient evidence and analysis to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). This EA has been prepared to assess the environmental consequences resulting from the construction and operation of the proposed Molecular Foundry facility within the boundaries of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL).

The objectives of this EA are to (1) describe the underlying purpose and need for DOE action; (2) describe the Proposed Action and identify and describe any reasonable alternatives that satisfy the purpose and need for DOE action; (3) describe baseline environmental conditions at LBNL; (4) analyze the potential indirect, direct, and cumulative impacts to the existing environment from implementation of the Proposed Action and other reasonable alternatives; and (5) compare the impacts of the Proposed Action with the No Action Alternative and other reasonable alternatives.